

Minutes: ECICC Gaps and Barriers Committee (GBC)
November 16, 2007, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Cornhusker Hotel
Lincoln, Nebraska

The Gaps and Barriers Standing Committee of the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council (ECICC) met on November 16, 2007 in a regular meeting prior to the ECICC meeting at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska. Carey Winkler and Mary Phillips co-chaired the meeting.

Present: Lynn Brehm, Amy Bunnell, Carol Fichter, Pat Frost, Louise Hall-Mountain, Barb Jackson, Eleanor Kirkland, Terri Lewis (to 10:30), Joan Luebbers, Ruth Miller (to 10:30), Tammy Mittelstaedt, Mary Phillips, Carol Puffer, Terry Rohren (to 10:30), Barbara Schliesser, Connie Shockley, Mark Smith, Joni Thomas, Joyce Thomas, Carey Winkler; Martha Gadberry, facilitator; Susan Dahm, recorder.
Also present: Megan Bolphen, UNL student.

Agenda

1. Opening and Announcements

- i. Carey Winkler opened the meeting with self-introductions by members present.
- ii. Minutes from the August 24, 2007 GBC meeting were provided to members in the meeting packet.
 - Motion, Barbara Schliesser; second, Mary Phillips: To approve the minutes as written. The motion passed by a voice vote; there were no abstentions.
- iii. Amy Bunnell recognized outgoing member, Gaylene Stinman, for her work as an advocate for young children.
- iv. Facilitator Martha Gadberry reviewed the agenda and ground rules.

2. Part C Activities

a. ILCD and Part C File Reviews

- ILCD and File Reviews—Barbara Schliesser introduced the self assessment process of ILCD (Improving Learning for Children with Disabilities). Joan Luebbers reviewed how ILCD works and Amy Bunnell explained how file reviews are conducted for Part C (Early Intervention—EI). The ILCD process was developed for school districts to review their own files with a representative from the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). The process is reported on-line and gives ownership of the process to school districts. Mary Phillips noted that the ILCD process is also a vehicle for staff development and creates discussion among staff and EI supervisors to discuss issues and develop corrective action plans. The Part C file reviews are conducted by Co-Leads staff visiting the EI agency and reviewing services coordination files to meet state and federal regulations. During the file review process there is also interaction with staff about the review process and the files. File reviews are followed by a structured meeting with all involved and includes written feedback on strengths and needed improvement. Corrective action plans that must be completed within a year and again are followed up by Co-Lead staff.
- In February 2008 a stakeholder meeting will review the Part C monitoring structure, timing, and ways to meet all requirements while aligning with Part B. ECICC will be represented at the meeting by Tammy Mittelstaedt, Carey Winkler, Mary Phillips, and Ruth Miller.

b. Part C Reporting

- **Part C Annual Performance Report (APR)**
Barb Schliesser reviewed State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 5 and 6 concerning Nebraska's numbers of children verified with disabilities, birth to age 1 and birth to age 3, which are reported each year in the APR. The lower numbers reported in last year's APR led to a self assessment process carried out by Planning Region Teams (PRTs) in 2007. The PRT self assessment responses are being compiled and will be provided at the next meeting.
- **Public Reporting**
Joan Luebbers provided the group with a handout showing an overview of the SPP/APR indicators, the data sources to be used in reporting on the indicators, and designation for determination and public reporting.
- **District Determinations**
NDE reports Part C determinations by Planning Region Teams and select school districts for SPP/APR Indicators 1, 7, 8, 9. It is a local decision whether or not to release their data. If the district count of children with disabilities birth-three is under 10, the data must be masked and cannot be reported publically. Barb noted that in these determinations focus on timely and accurate data is prominent. Amy Bunnell informed the group about how services coordination fits into the indicators. For Part C, the agency that provides services coordination in a PRT is reviewed and determinations are made the same as for school districts. The difference is that the Co-Leads can tie funding to it because payment for services coordination is handled as a reimbursement and contract continuation can become an incentive. Barb noted that the determination letters are new this year and are a federal requirement. The Co-Leads want to keep the process positive and help schools and agencies that may be struggling.

The Co-Leads responded to discussion and answered questions from the committee.

c. Results Matter Updates—Child Outcomes

Barb Jackson updated the committee on the progress made in the reporting process for entry and exit data on child outcomes (Results Matter). The leadership group is now looking at how to improve the quality of the data (fidelity). A video broadcast about the fidelity process and other video resources and on-line training are being developed to help providers learn on how to do assessments. The intent is that all providers to be able to do quality assessment by April 2008. Results from the assessments will be reported on-line. The assessments will be reported for children with disabilities and all early childhood grant programs. Providers will choose one of three assessment tools to collect entry and exit data and submit outcomes. The Results Matter process will enable the state to analyze child outcomes in the same way with continuity across the programs.

Committee members contributed to discussion about the positive opportunities provided by the process and answered questions from other group members. Barb Schliesser thanked Barb Jackson, Carol Fichter, and Carol Puffer for their important roles in helping to define this process.

d. Part C Family Survey

Joan Luebbers reviewed how the spring 2008 Part C Family Survey is being conducted statewide in January to April. Lincoln Public Schools and Omaha Public Schools, who also participated in the fall 2007 sample survey, will conduct the spring survey only with the families who did not participate in the fall 2007 survey. The NCSEAM survey, which was used in the last two survey rounds, will again be used in the spring 2008 survey process. Data from the family survey is analyzed and reported in the APR. In addition to reporting in the APR,

results also go back to the Planning Region Teams for review on practices and program improvement. Joan recognized role of PTI-Nebraska in helping families respond to the survey.

- e. Free training for PRTs offered by the Early Childhood Training Center (ECTC)
Carol Puffer reported on requests from Planning Region Teams to meet issues within PRTs on issues pertinent to Part C, e.g., the fidelity process, low incidence, language/cultural aspects, Positive Behavior Supports, issues for parents, transition issues, etc. The trainings are often held in the evening so parents can participate. The ECTC will be working with PRTs that have not requested training to plan their requests.
- f. Part C Federal regulations and Rule 51
The Part C federal regulations and the NDE Rule 51 are still in the draft stage, with passage not anticipated until at least spring of 2008. Amy Bunnell reported that she had sent information to services coordinators to not implement anything related to the drafts until after authorization is passed. Mark Smith noted that the voluminous feedback from public hearings will impact the speed of the response. Barb Schliesser noted that after Rule 51 revisions are approved by the Board of Education, there is opportunity for public response.

3. PBiS—Positive Behavior and intervention Supports—for Early Childhood.

Eleanor Kirkland reported that the leadership team for PBiS meets quarterly with subgroups related to infrastructure, evaluation, and professional development working separately. They are looking at pilot sites and implementation of outcome oriented activities. Eleanor noted that several Gaps and Barriers committee members are on the team. Funding from a systems improvement grant (SIG) is helping fund a contract with UNL Public Policy Center to support training. Carol Fichter gave an update on training and implementation of the pyramid model. Members wishing more information should contact Martha Nash, ECTC, or Eleanor.

4. Core Competencies

Carol Fichter reported that the group developing the Core Competencies is expecting to have a final draft in early 2008, which will be posted on the ECTC website. The Core Competencies describe what professionals in the field should know and be able to do, i.e., essential competencies to effectively deliver quality practice for children and families. The materials also outline training and coursework needed.

5. Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- a. Transportation Task Force.
Eleanor reviewed the complexity of the transportation issues that contribute to barriers for infants and toddlers. She identified ECICC members who will participate on the task force, which is planning to produce a general report by May 2008. Lynne Brehm is partnering with the group in heading up the “impact team.”
- b. Head Start Reauthorization Act.
Eleanor provided an overview of the Act and reported that it had passed Congress and gone to the President for signature. She also noted the veto to the federal appropriation bill for Early Head Start. This means that this appropriation will be put into the general omnibus budget, which can be detrimental to line items. Members wishing more information should contact Eleanor.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting: February 15, 2008, 10:30 a.m. (in conjunction with the regular ECICC meeting)